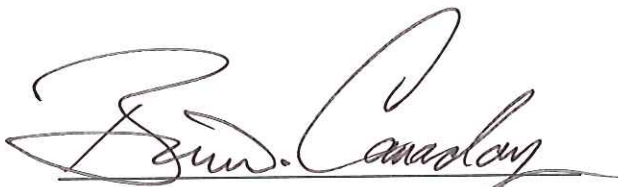


Bennett Spring Access

Ten-Year Area Management Plan FY 2016-2025




Fisheries Division Chief


Date

Bennett Spring Access Management Plan Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

Mike Mitchell, Hatchery Manager, Planning Team Chair

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SOUTHWEST REGION

RCT Chair

Garret Albright
Signature

9/22/15
Date

FISHERIES DIVISION

Field Operations Chief

Bruce Duckstein
Signature

10-1-15
Date

OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Bennett Spring Access, #6320
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1963
- **Acreage:** 178 acres
- **County:** Dallas
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Fisheries Division
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Fisheries Division
- **Statements of Purpose:**
 - A. Strategic Direction**
Provide public fishing access to the Niangua River for both boat and bank anglers.
 - B. Desired Future Condition**
The desired future condition of Bennett Spring Access is to provide access to the Niangua River.
 - C. Federal Aid Statement**
N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

- I. Special Considerations**
 - A. Priority Areas:** Upper Niangua Terrestrial Conservation Opportunity Area, Bennett Spring Aquatic Conservation Opportunity Area, Priority Forest Landscape
 - B. Natural Areas:** None
- II. Important Natural Features and Resources**
 - A. Species of Conservation Concern:** Species of conservation concern are known from this area. Area Managers should consult the Natural Heritage Database annually and review all management activities with the Natural History Biologist.
 - B. Caves:** None
 - C. Springs:** None
- III. Existing Infrastructure**
 - 1 concrete ramp
 - 2 dirt ramps
 - 3 parking lots, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible
 - 2 privies, ADA accessible
 - Septic lagoons (facilities for Bennett Spring State Park, maintained by Department of Natural Resources)

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

- A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:** Department of Natural Resources (State Parks) operates a three-cell sewage lagoon system and aerial spray fields on the property which receives waste from Bennett Spring State Park.
- B. Federal Interest:** Federal funds were used in the development of this area, or a portion thereof. The Department must maintain the developed project throughout its useful life. Federal funds may also be used in the management of this land. Fish and wildlife agencies may not allow recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the State is managing the land. Other uses may be acceptable and must be assessed in each specific situation.
- C. Easements:** A cemetery and road are located on the Bennett Spring Access as noted on the area map.
- D. Cultural Resources Findings:** Yes, records kept with Missouri Department of Conservation (the Department) Environmental Compliance Specialist. Managers should follow Best Management Practices for Cultural Resources found in the Department Resource Policy Manual.
- E. Hazards and Hazardous Materials:** Department of Natural Resource three-cell lagoon and sprayfield.
- F. Endangered Species:** Endangered species are known from this area. Area Managers should consult the Natural Heritage Database annually and review all management activities with the Natural History Biologist.
- G. Boundary Issues:** None

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Management centers on providing bank and boat access to the Niangua River and preventing activities from compromising stream bank integrity. Area maintenance is provided by staff in Fisheries Division.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain adequate riparian corridors.
- 2) Prevent soil erosion.
- 3) Control invasive and exotic species.

Management Objective 1: Maintain riparian corridors as specified in the Department's *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines* (2009).

Strategy 1: Allow natural vegetative processes to continue (Fisheries).

Strategy 2: Replace dead trees, as needed, to maintain riparian cover in areas where roads and parking lots encroach into the riparian management area (Fisheries).

Strategy 3: Control access by restricting vehicles to parking lots and boat ramp or boat launching areas only (Fisheries).

Management Objective 2: Prevent soil erosion due to infrastructure.

Strategy 1: Ensure roads and roadside drainages are managed to reduce runoff, sedimentation and erosion (Fisheries).

Management Objective 3: Control invasive and exotic species.

Strategy 1: Periodically monitor area for invasive and exotic species and use appropriate strategies for management. These could include, but are not limited to, mechanical, chemical and/or prescribed fire treatments (Fisheries).

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Prevent excessive stream bank erosion.

Management Objective 1: Ensure that infrastructure does not increase bank erosion.

Strategy 1: Boat ramps, parking areas and gravel launch areas have been installed and will be maintained to have a low profile on the bank to prevent back eddies and scouring currents (Fisheries).

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Provide public access along the Niangua River.
- 2) Inform the public of the opportunities available at this area.
- 3) Maintain area in a desirable condition.
- 4) Department of Natural Resources (State Parks) operates a three-cell sewage lagoon system and aerial spray fields on the property which receives waste from Bennett Spring State Park.

Management Objective 1: Maintain suitable public access.

Strategy 1: Ensure existing infrastructure is maintained to Department standards (Fisheries).

APPENDICES

Area Background:

Legal Description: Township 35 North, Range 18 West, Section 25.

Area Location: Bennett Spring Access is 12 miles west of Lebanon on Highway 64 across the Niangua River Bridge.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Forest/Woodlands	166		93
Other	7		4
Grassland	5		3
Total	178		100
Stream Frontage		0.5	

Public Input Summary:

The draft Bennett Spring Access Area Plan was available for public comment period July 1-31, 2015. The Missouri Department of Conservation received no comments during this time period.

References:

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2009). *Watershed and stream management guidelines for lands and waters managed by Missouri Department of Conservation*. Jefferson City, Missouri: Missouri Department of Conservation.

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Vicinity Map on the Niangua River

Figure 3: Bennett Spring Access Features Map

Figure 1: Area Map

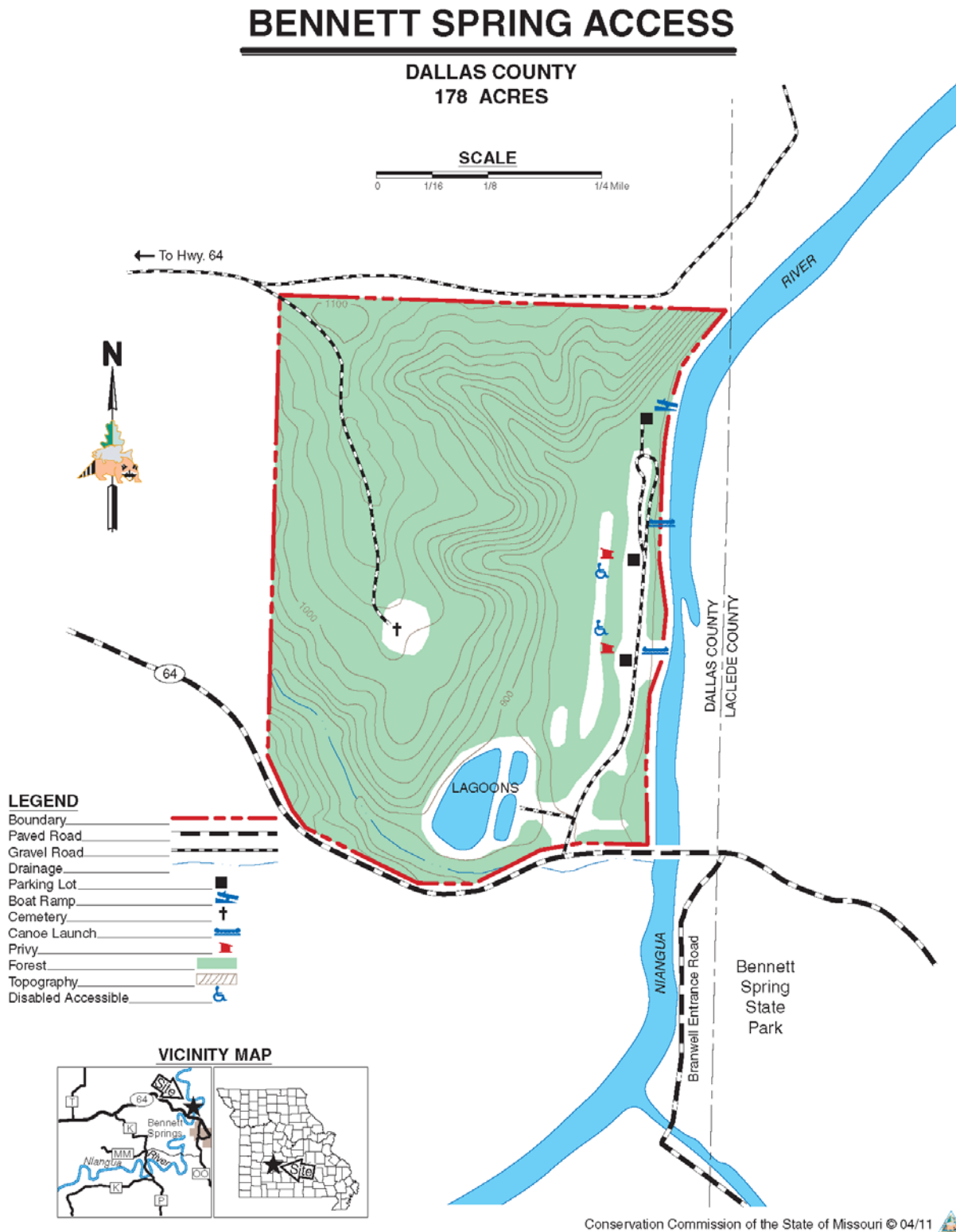


Figure 2: Vicinity Map on the Niangua River

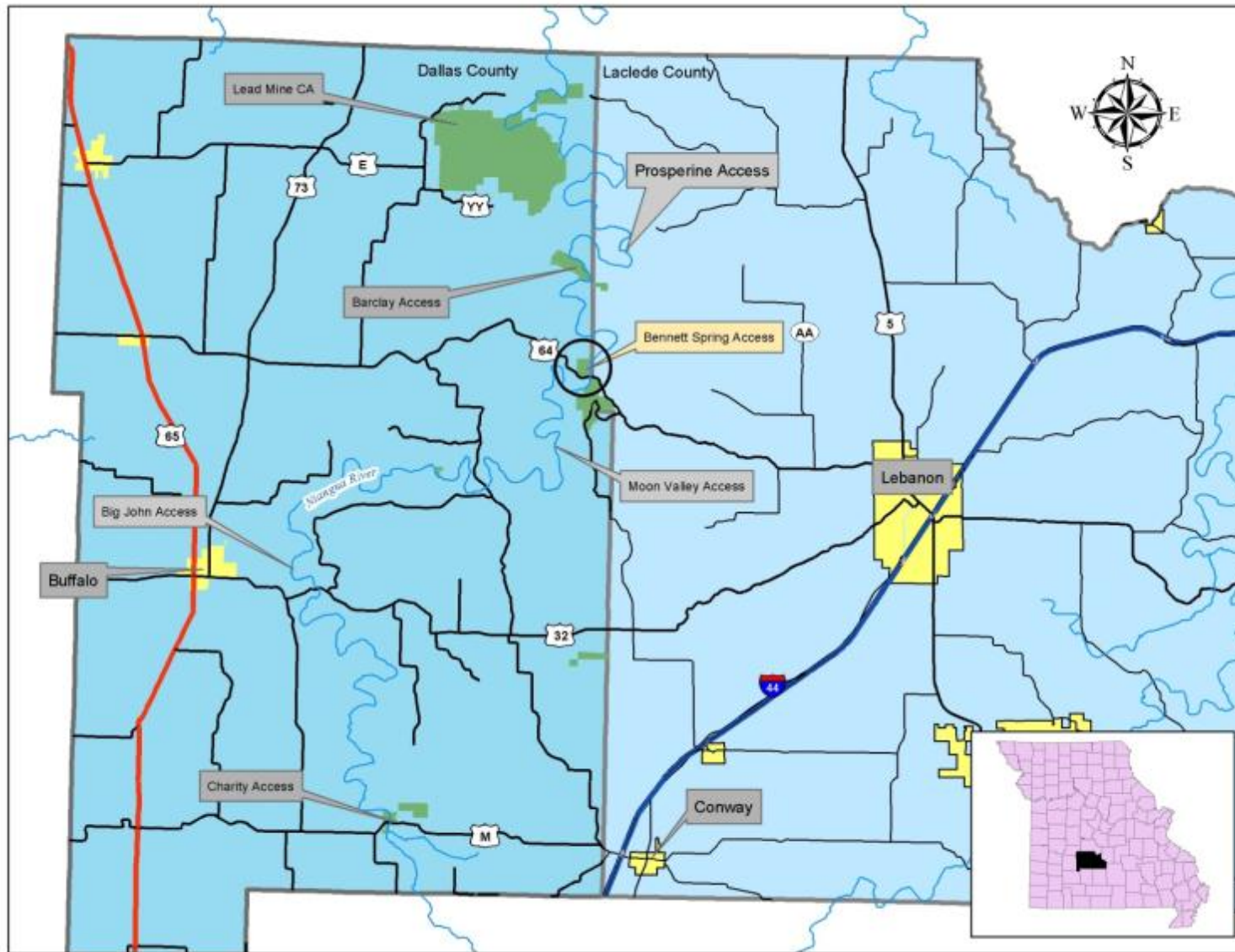


Figure 3: Bennett Spring Access Features Map

